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© *Photograph by Sumner W. Matteson*

RESIDENTS OF ORAIBI, OLDEST TOWN IN THE UNITED STATES, HOLD A SNAKE DANCE

(See Bulletin No. 4)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Calcutta, Second City of the British Empire

EVENTS in India, no matter where they occur, always echo in Calcutta, largest city of the Empire.

Calcutta is one of the most progressive cities of the East. All the modern devices and equipment to handle a tremendous commerce and to care for both native and foreign populations have been sought by the port.

It has risen to its dominant position in less than 250 years. Among the populous cities of the British Commonwealth of Nations, Calcutta is second only to London.

First Trading Station Known as Kalikuta

When Job Charnock of the East India Company set up a trading station at Kalikuta in 1690, the insignificant native village occupied a narrow stretch of dry land on the left bank of the mud-laden Hooghly with fever-breeding swamps surrounding it on the three other sides.

Charnock knew the products of the rich Ganges and Brahmaputra valleys could be routed through Kalikuta and the swamps would protect his station from unfriendly Indian neighbors, but his wildest visions, perhaps, did not lead him to foresee the Calcutta of the twentieth century.

To-day three important railroads converge at Calcutta. The treacherous shifty channel of the Hooghly is a parade ground for commercial vessels of all sizes, flying flags of many nations. Nearly 10 miles of modern wharves and warehouses, equipped with all modern devices, receive and export many millions of dollars' worth of jute, tea, hides, oil seed, lac, cotton, coal and other products of Bengal and surrounding provinces. And many acres of the old swamp land have been reclaimed, forming beautiful parks and sites for government buildings, and palatial residences of "jute kings" and "tea kings."

One Tree Covers Two Acres, Has 250 Trunks

To the traveler who approaches Calcutta by water, its growth is a mystery. At the mouth of the Hooghly, the indigo blue water of the Bay of Bengal turns to a dirty brown. For much of the 80-mile trip mud flats and water-logged forests form the riverside scenery, with no evidence of civilization save for the commercial craft plying the river. Only the most skilled pilot can steer a vessel up the shifty channel.

When almost within sight of Calcutta, the smokestack of a jute mill and here and there groups of native thatched huts break the monotony of the journey, and then, around a bend, the great Indian port appears.

Bathing ghats on both banks now are filled with Hindus. One of the popular ghats is at the Botanical Gardens, where grows the famous Calcutta Banyan tree. It covers nearly 2 acres and has about 250 trunks. A short distance beyond, perspiring natives loading and unloading ocean-going vessels explain Calcutta's development—commerce. Small boats resembling the Chinese sampans clustered about the wharves or floating leisurely to and from Howrah, Calcutta's manufacturing district on the other side of the Hooghly, handle much of the local small freight. A 1,500-foot floating bridge also connects the two river banks.

Like all large cities, Calcutta has its slums, with squalid houses of mud and

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PUNCH AND JUDY ENTERTAIN ENGLISH CHILDREN ON THE BEACH AT YARMOUTH IN EAST ANGLIA

The proprietors of this popular puppet show reap a harvest of small coins as the hat is passed among the spectators, for it is an amusement of which both young and old are fond (See Bulletin No. 5).

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Ethiopia's Own Christian Church

DEATH of Queen Zauditu of Ethiopia (Abyssinia) may result in important changes in the national Coptic Church, to which she was deeply devoted. Only a few months ago the ancient sect installed a new Aboona.

He was raised to office in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia (Abyssinia), with as great pomp and ceremony as that which has accompanied the crowning of many emperors.

Ethiopia is a barbaric country—in some aspects almost savage, yet it is one of the oldest of the Christian nations, and it takes its Christianity, in form at least, very seriously. The Ethiopians (or Abyssinians) became Christians early in the fourth century and have steadfastly held on to their faith, often defending it with the sword. Their church thus lacks only a few hundred years of being as old as Christianity itself.

Rulers Trace Descent from Solomon and Queen of Sheba

The Aboona is the head of the Abyssinian Church, and his office, with all its restrictions and powers, dates from the introduction of the faith. Christianity came to Ethiopia romantically. One legend relates that Frumentius, who converted the king and people, was shipwrecked on the Red Sea coast which Ethiopia then possessed. Another version has it that this studious youth was taken prisoner when the merchant ship on which he was traveling touched Ethiopian soil in search of water. At any rate, he settled in the country and became interested in introducing Christianity.

Frumentius found the Ethiopians practicing Jewish rites, for there is much Jewish blood among this people, contributed by immigrants who came south from Palestine and crossed the Red Sea. The undoubted evidence of Jewish influences in Ethiopia to-day, even in the Christian churches, lends color to the claim of the kings of the country that they are descended from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, the latter a ruler of Ethiopia.

Frumentius made a journey to Alexandria, Egypt, had himself consecrated as a priest, and was appointed a bishop of the Coptic Christian faith, with Ethiopia for his see. He returned to his adopted land and devoted his life to converting its people to this eastern branch of the Christian Church.

Aboona Is Always an Egyptian

Thus Frumentius became the first of a long line of Abyssinian Aboonas, which has been broken only once in sixteen centuries. Always the Aboona is an Egyptian and a member of the Coptic Church. Always he is appointed by the head of that branch of Christianity, the Patriarch of Alexandria, and is sent to Ethiopia to be leader of the Christians of that country for life. He is supposed never to leave the country after his appointment, but in recent years this rule was relaxed to permit the late Aboona to obtain medical treatment in Egypt.

The Aboona is in effect a "Papal" legate, with the Patriarch of Alexandria standing in place of the Roman Pontiff, and the Alexandrian Synod in the place of the College of Cardinals. Through this contact the Abyssinian Church has been kept through the centuries in accord, in all essentials, with Coptic Christianity, in spite of the rather low cultural level of the great mass of Ethiopians.

thatch, and sometimes brick, bordering narrow, dirty streets, inhabited by half-starved, unkempt natives.

The congestion in this district is in sharp contrast to the greater portion of the city, where wide streets and numerous open spaces, beautified by gardens and lakes, are bordered by modern shops, hotels, magnificent temples, palatial residences and government and private buildings that would do credit to any western city. The presence of ragged, unkempt beggars at every turn, however, is constantly suggestive of India.

Calcutta Called "The City of Palaces"

Dalhousie Square, a few blocks from the Hooghly, is an attractive parkway. The post office, which faces its lake, bears a tablet designating the site of the famous Calcutta Black Hole episode.

The Maidan, Calcutta's Mall, with its race track, cricket fields and gardens, is the rendezvous for sport lovers and promenaders. In the evening the "who's who" of Calcutta are there. Colorful Indian rajahs with their servants in native costume, wealthy natives and government officials, both British and Indian, rub elbows on the walks or swiftly pass in their foreign cars with chauffeurs whose costumes and uniforms represent many styles and colors of the East and West.

Fort William occupies much of the river side of the Maidan. Near-by are the Eden gardens. In the southeast corner Queen Victoria has been memorialized by a magnificent building in Italian Renaissance. Its central dome of pure white marble came from the same quarries from which the marble for the Taj Mahal was hewn. The white marble palace of the governor of Bengal, overlooking the Maidan from the north, was the residence of the Viceroy before the capital was removed to Delhi in 1912. This and the palatial residences, clubs and public buildings along the Maidan's eastern side, gave to Calcutta the name "The City of Palaces."

© *Photograph by Sir Alan J. Cobham*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT CALCUTTA

In 1686 Calcutta was founded as a trading post. Now, with its splendid palaces, parks, and esplanade, its colleges, shops, and factories, and its vast trade by sea and by land with the Ganges and Brahmaputra valleys, it has become one of the great cities of the world.

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Massachusetts on Its 300th Birthday

MASSACHUSETTS celebrates this year the tercentenary of the establishment of the Bay Colony.

Ten years ago the State celebrated the tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims. It was not until 1630 that the charter by which the king created the colony, a charter now treasured in the State House at Boston, was received by the colonists.

"Everybody knows that the Bay State is one of the smallest of the commonwealths that compose the United States of America, but who realizes that it takes as many Massachusetts to make a United States as it takes days to make a leap year?" writes William Joseph Showalter in a communication to the National Geographic Society.

"The crow needs to fly only 135 miles in going from Sheffield to Salisbury, or only 180 miles in winging its way from Greylock's summit to Chatham's sands, while the distance between Lake Monomonac, which spans the New Hampshire boundary, and Lake Chaugogagogmanchaugagogchaubunagungamaug, which touches Connecticut, is only a little longer than the name of the latter.

Rock Fences Broad Enough for a Driveway

"Manufacturing thrives in Massachusetts, but it does so at the expense of agriculture. No other State in the American Union has such a small proportion of its people engaged in the oldest of civilized vocations. Only one breadwinner in a score finds his food in farming, forestry, animal husbandry, and fishing.

"What pathos there is in the thought that more than half of the ground the Pilgrim people for two centuries fought so hard to wrest from forest and stone should have been surrendered to weed and brush during the last few decades!

"Motor out from Boston to Lexington, and then by Bedford to Lowell. Did ever a hardy and spirited race leave a greater monument to its determination in combating inhospitable nature than the farmers of bygone generations left in the thousands of miles of stone walls one sees in this part of Massachusetts?

"Not only did they have to clear the ground of a stumpage that yielded little as lumber by way of compensation, but also of a vast amount of loose rock that occurs so frequently where the soil is best.

"The result was that fences were built, not with reference to the needs of height and width in field boundaries, but rather of dimensions sufficient to provide a storage place for the vast amount of rock that had to be removed before the plow and the harrow could make ready the soil or the corn and wheat find a place to grow. Some of these stone fences are so thick that an automobile could drive along the tops.

Led the Nation in School Progress

"Massachusetts was one of the first to appreciate the advantage of good roads and to undertake a state-wide program of highway construction. Many millions of dollars have been spent in perfecting a system of trunk lines. The result is that the whole State is a paradise for the summer motorist, and tens of thousands of Americans gather in this vacation land, which can suit every taste and pocketbook.

"Just as Massachusetts was a pioneer in recognizing the advantage of good automobile roads, it was also the first State to appreciate the development of its

The Aboona is the spiritual leader of the Ethiopians. Under him are all bishops and priests, numbering about 100,000, and from him they receive their ordination. He crowns kings and officiates at all great public religious ceremonies.

Aboona Is Spiritual Leader, but the Etchequie Holds Purse Strings

The second powerful church official, the Etchequie, who has charge of all church property and church finances, is an Ethiopian, as is the third important church official, the High Priest.

The Etchequie has manifold responsibilities, for between a quarter and a third of the land is the property of the church. Much of it is leased out, and its revenues must be collected and managed. The typical Abyssinian church building, a round stone or mud structure with conical thatched roof, is to be found on every hand. Probably tens of thousands of them exist in the country. There are also numerous monasteries and fewer convents.

Bulletin No. 2, May 5, 1930.

For additional material on Ethiopia see "Man and Nature in Ethiopia," *National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1928, and "A Caravan Journey Through Abyssinia," June, 1925.

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A COPTIC PRIEST ON THE MARCH

A large percentage of men of Ethiopia are priests. Many wander through the country carrying all their possessions with them. A parasol and a fly switch are standard equipment.

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What Are the World's Oldest Cities?

ORAIBI, an Arizona Indian village north of Winslow, recently was declared the oldest continuously inhabited community in the United States.

This determination was made by Neil M. Judd, leader of National Geographic Society expeditions to Pueblo Bonito, who, with Dr. A. E. Douglass, determined the age of forty major Indian ruins.* The chronology was worked out after years of collection and study of some 5,000 timbers from ruins which recorded their ages by their annual growth rings when they were trees.

Oraibi was in existence in 1370, more than a century before the Spaniards reached the mainland of North America.

Damascus Given Title of World's Oldest City

The oldest city of European origin in the United States is St. Augustine, Florida, founded in 1565; but there is a much older city founded by Europeans in the Western Hemisphere. This is San Domingo, on the Island of Haiti, which was founded in 1497.

All of which raises the question of what are the oldest cities of other continents and countries.

So far as history and archaeology tell, the first cities or towns in the world were built by the Sumerians in the Tigris-Euphrates valley, perhaps as early as 4500 B.C. Towns and villages exist to-day on some of these old sites, but none can be pointed to as existing continuously.

Damascus, on an oasis in Syria, has the general reputation of being the oldest city in the world in continuous existence. The best that can be said for this claim to priority is that no town on any of the continents appears to have a better. Damascus is mentioned in Genesis xiv, 15, as already a town in the days of Abraham, probably 2000 B.C.

In Africa, a reasonably good case can be made for Cairo as the site of a city or town for more than 2,400 years, but it is not certain that small breaks in the continuity did not occur. On the edge of Cairo to-day are the ruins of ancient Heliopolis, founded some 3,000 years before Christ. It had a continuous existence until Roman times, but fell into ruin. A fashionable suburb of Cairo now spreads over the site of Heliopolis.

Cairo and Alexandria Africa's Grandfather Cities

The birth of a continuing city on the site now occupied by Cairo probably took place about 525 B.C. when a town called Babylon was founded, presumably by emigrants from Babylon in Mesopotamia. The Romans added to Babylon by building a fort there and making it the headquarters of a legion. The town and fort were captured by Mohammedan invaders in 641 A.D. Touching the old site, the victorious Moslems built a new capital, El-Fostat. Although other near-by cities

* "Secret of the Southwest Solved by Talkative Tree Rings," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1929. Working out the tree-ring calendar, finding of beautiful art objects in Indian ruins, and the people who live there to-day, will be described before National Education Association members at Columbus, Ohio, July 2. The announcement of the time and place of this illustrated address will be made in the official program of the National Education Association.

historic resources. There are markers from mountain to sea, telling in brief outline the history of hallowed spots.

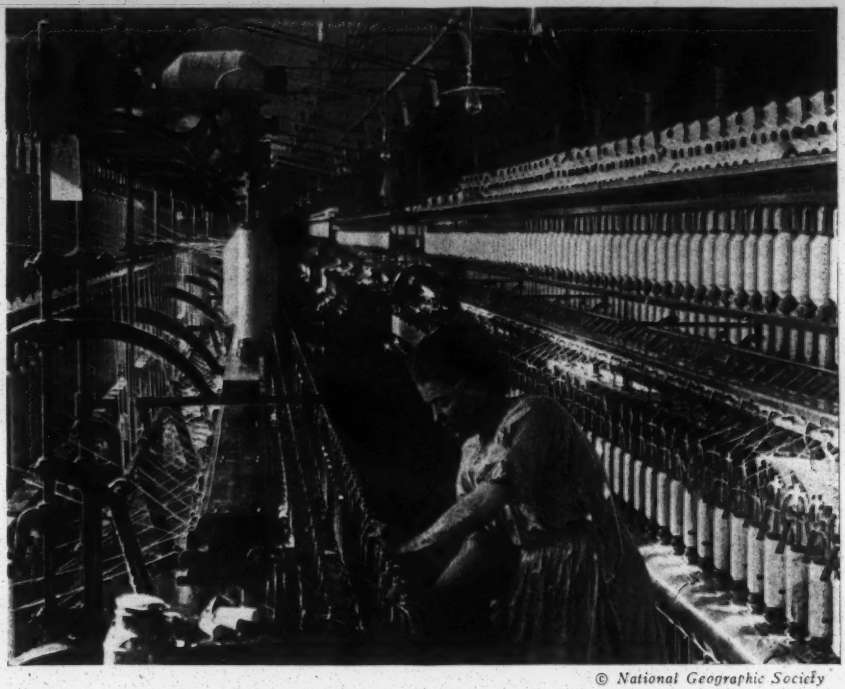
"From its earliest days the State has led the nation in matters educational. Here the first colonial grammar school was established, the first college, the first elementary free school, the first academy, the first high school, and the first normal school.

"Call the roll of the institutions of higher learning—Harvard and Holyoke, Amherst and Williams, Smith and Wellesley, Tufts and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and many others—and most of them will be found to have been pioneers in their respective fields and to stand today each for some special ideal."

Bulletin No. 3, May 5, 1930.

Note: Comprehensive articles on sixteen States generously illustrated with black and white and natural color pictures, which have appeared in the *National Geographic Magazine* are useful for reference in the study of the geography of the United States:

Arizona, January, 1929
California, July, 1915; June, 1929
Washington, D. C., June, 1923
Florida, January, 1930
Georgia, September, 1926
Louisiana, April, 1930
Maryland, February, 1927
Massachusetts, March, 1920; April, 1923
Michigan, March, 1928
Missouri, April, 1923
North Carolina, May, 1926
Pennsylvania, May, 1919
South Carolina, May, 1926
Texas, June, 1928
Vermont, March, 1927
Virginia, April, 1929



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THE FINE ROVING FRAMES IN A MASSACHUSETTS COTTON MILL

Here we see another step in the long process of converting cotton first into "lap," then into "roving," and then into yarn. The machines in this picture give the roving the final stretching and twisting before it goes to the spinning frames, where it is converted into yarn.

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Sandringham, King George's Favorite Country Home

SANDRINGHAM is the favorite country home of King George of England. Spring and summer always find the king and queen spending many days at this residence.

Sandringham estate lies in Norfolk county, or what the Saxons called East Anglia, about 105 miles northeast of London. The district was once entirely wild heathland, although a present-day visitor, seeing the velvety lawns, the luxuriant gardens and tree-filled parks, would never suspect the fact.

Not a Castle—Just a Comfortable House

Sandringham House itself is a large structure of red brick built in conventional Tudor style. It is preeminently not a castle but a house. The approach winds through the famous Norwich gates, structures of wrought iron, which were presented to King Edward VII on his marriage, as a gift from the city of Norwich.

Numerous gardens dot the grounds surrounding the house. There is a Dutch garden, entered through gilded gates, whose rows of flowers have the quaint orderliness of a true Netherlands garden. Many kinds of flowers and plants are found in the Maze which was designed by the present king and his sisters when they were children. Fountains and pergolas and an artificial lake beautify the grounds, while clipped yews and shrubbery trace a formal pattern on the lawn in front of the house. On the premises are acres of planted pine trees where pheasants and jays keep noisy company.

King and Queen Prove Themselves Good Landlords

Sandringham is not far from the Wash, a bay which indents England's east coast. Thus the king benefits doubly from pine breezes and sea breezes.

King George and Queen Mary have been good landlords of Sandringham estate. The village of West Newton, which lies on the estate, and is connected by a footpath to Sandringham, is a model village. There the queen has instituted many reforms in farming and dairying. The farmers and servants live in model cottages and the stables and barns are miracles of scientific neatness.

Home for Spinsters Who Are Not Scolds or Drunkards

The railway does not reach Sandringham, so the last few miles of the journey from London are made by automobile from Wolferton. Near Sandringham lies Castle Rising, a very old village famous for its Norman castle where Queen Isabella, the "she-wolf of France," expiated her part in her husband's murder. The church in this ancient town dates from the twelfth century.

But the most interesting place in Castle Rising for visitors is the Bede House or Trinity Hospital. Here, since 1614, has been established an almshouse for twelve poor spinsters over fifty years of age, who are not "scolds, drunkards, or haunters of taverns." On holidays and Sundays, the twelve spinsters may be seen wending their separate ways to church in enveloping red cloaks, and tall, peaked hats, the costumes of the house inmates since Jacobean days.

See also: "Tour in the English Fenland," *National Geographic Magazine*, May, 1929.

became in turn the Moslem capitals, El-Fostat probably continued to exist. A part of Old Cairo to-day occupies its site.

If it should turn out that there were breaks in the existence of a city on the site of Cairo, Alexandria, founded in 325 B.C., would fall heir to the title of Africa's oldest city.

In Europe, Athens has probably existed longer than any other city which is to-day of importance, for apparently a settlement was established there more than 1,000 years before the Christian era. Rome is a close rival, for its beginnings appear to have been about 1,000 B.C. Other Greek communities of ancient importance that may have antedated Athens have not survived as important cities to the present day; and in the life of Istanbul (Constantinople) there were almost surely lapses.

Cuzco Holds the Record in South America

In Australia civilization did not reach the city-building stage until the arrival of European settlers. The first settlement was made at Botany Bay in 1788 and moved the same year to the site of Sydney. The metropolis of Australia, therefore, is the oldest city on the continent, although it is one of the youngest of the world's great urban centers.

South America's oldest existing city of importance is probably Cuzco, Peru, which is reputed to have been founded by the Incas about the tenth century A.D. It may, however, be much older.

Mexico City is believed to be the oldest large city in continuous existence on the North American mainland. It was founded, according to tradition, by the Aztecs in 1325.

Bulletin No. 4, May 5, 1930.

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EXCAVATING THE DEATH PIT AT UR, ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST CITIES

The large shaft grave in the foreground contained 74 human victims, 68 of them women. Ur was inhabited by the Sumerians more than 4,000 years ago. American archeologists, employing between 180 and 300 natives, are gradually revealing the tragic story of this ancient community.

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NOT HOLLAND, BUT ENGLAND

The windmills are used to drain the marshes of the Fenland in East Anglia. This country is quite typical of Holland, the true home of the windmill.

The current issue is next to the last of thirty issues published during the present school year. The following application is printed for the convenience of teachers who wish to apply now for the Bulletin service for the school year beginning next fall.

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